

REMARKS:Status

Claims 1 to 7, 13 to 22, 27 to 36, and 41 to 43 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 16, 27, 30 and 41 are the independent claims and have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 13 to 15, 27 to 29, and 41 to 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the Office Action asserted that “the determination of the ‘most likely’ configuration change responsible is not sufficiently disclosed in the specification.”

While Applicant believes that this feature is fully enabled, Applicant has nonetheless amended claims 13, 27 and 41 to recite “identifying ... one or more of said configuration changes.”

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal is respectfully requested of this rejection.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1 to 7, 16 to 22, and 30 to 36: These claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,553,235 (Chen). The independent ones of these claims are reproduced below, as amended:

1. A method, including steps of
repeatedly reviewing monitoring statistics regarding operation of a
file server, said steps of reviewing being performed at least as often as a
selected time period; and

processing said monitoring statistics using a diagnostic software
module on said file server, in response to said steps of repeatedly
reviewing;

wherein said diagnostic software module diagnoses a behavior of
said file server to determine a specific problem or problems by comparing
said monitoring statistics to rules or patterns representing abnormal states
of operation for said file server.

16. A file server comprising:
an interface to a network;
mass storage accessible through said interface;
a processor that controls access to said mass storage; and
a memory that stores information including instructions executable
by said processor, said instructions including steps of (a) repeatedly
reviewing monitoring statistics regarding operation of said file server, said
steps of reviewing being performed at least as often as a selected time
period, and (b) processing said monitoring statistics using a diagnostic
software module on said file server, in response to said steps of repeatedly
reviewing;

wherein said diagnostic software module diagnoses a behavior of
said file server to determine a specific problem or problems by comparing
said monitoring statistics to rules or patterns representing abnormal states
of operation for said file server.

30. A memory storing information including instructions, the
instructions executable by a processor to control a file server, the
instructions including steps of
repeatedly reviewing monitoring statistics regarding operation of
said file server, said steps of reviewing being performed at least as often as
a selected time period; and

processing said monitoring statistics using a diagnostic software
module on said file server, in response to said steps of repeatedly
reviewing;

wherein said diagnostic software module diagnoses a behavior of
said file server to determine a specific problem or problems by comparing
said monitoring statistics to rules or patterns representing abnormal states
of operation for said file server.

The applied Chen reference is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claims 1, 16, and 30, at least with respect to “processing said monitoring statistics using a diagnostic software module on said file server,” with “said file server” being the file server that “said monitoring statistics” regard.

In more detail, Chen implements a “client/server model ... to allow performance monitoring over a network.” Chen, col. 4, lines 3 to 4. Applicant does not see Chen to disclose monitoring statistic regarding a file server and using a module on that file server to process those monitoring statistics, as recited by claims 1, 16, and 30.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 103 rejection of claims 1, 16, and 30, as well as of their dependent claims.

Claims 13 to 15, 27 to 29, and 41 to 43: These claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,173,417 (Merrill). The independent ones of these claims are reproduced below, as amended:

13. A method, including steps of
tracking configuration changes to a file server;
identifying changes in monitoring statistics for said file server that
indicate an error or other failure in said file server;
relating said changes in said monitoring statistics to timing of said
configuration changes; and
identifying, in response to said steps of tracking and of relating,
one or more of said configuration changes.

27. A file server comprising:
an interface to a network;
mass storage accessible through said interface;
a processor that controls access to said mass storage; and
a memory that stores information including instructions executable
by said processor, said instructions including steps of (a) tracking

configuration changes to said file server, (b) identifying changes in monitoring statistics for said file server that indicate an error or other failure in said file server, (c) relating said changes in said monitoring statistics to timing of said configuration changes, and (d) identifying, in response to said steps of tracking and of relating, one or more of said configuration changes.

41. A memory storing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processor to control a file server, the instructions including steps of
tracking configuration changes to said file server;
identifying changes in monitoring statistics for said file server that indicate an error or other failure in said file server;
relating said changes in said monitoring statistics to timing of said configuration changes; and
identifying, in response to said steps of tracking and of relating, one or more of said configuration changes.

The applied Merrill reference is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claims 13, 27, and 41, at least with respect to “relating said changes in said monitoring statistics to timing of said configuration changes.”

Merrill monitors for a crash. As recited at col. 7, lines 24 to 29, “If the kernel is operating and determines that there has been a crash, the kernel can take corrective action, as indicated at block 72.” This corrective action can include, for example, closing an application, resetting the system, and using a “VxD” and “executive” to bring the system up using a virtual images. See col. 7, line 39, to col. 8, line 10. However, no mention appears to Applicant to be made of “relating” the crash or a monitored “crash circumstance” to timing of configuration changes.

In this regard, Applicant acknowledges the Examiner’s comments in the “Response to Arguments” section of the Office Action. Applicant agrees that the claims are not

limited with regard to “how or what configuration changes are tracked” or “what constitutes a configuration change.” Rather, the claims are broadly directed to tracking any configuration changes. Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would recognize that “configuration changes” could include, for example, changes to network configuration, memory configuration, processor configuration, and other configuration parameters.

Applicant also agrees that the claims are not limited with regard to “what statistics are monitored” or “what constitutes a statistic.” Rather, the claims are broadly directed toward any monitored statistics. Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would recognize that such statistics could include, for example, network statistics, memory usage and availability statistics, processor usage and performance statistics, and other statistics.

The Office Action further stated that the claims “do not specifically claim how the changes in statistics and timing of configuration changes are related.” Again, the claims are not limited to any particular technique for relating the changes in statistics to the timing of configuration changes. However, Applicant believes it might be helpful to point out that the relating step should be read in the sense of “identifying a relationship between changes in statistics and timing of configuration changes” or “identifying how changes in statistics and timing of configuration changes are related.” This interpretation is clear from the application as filed, particularly section 3.4 of the technical appendix. Thus, the claims cannot recite “how the changes in statistics and time of configuration changes are related,” because that is the very thing determined by the step.

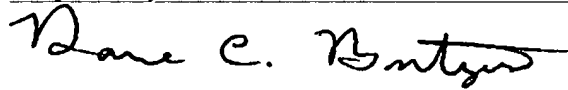
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Merrill fails to disclose the relating step of claims 13, 27, and 41. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 103 rejection of claims 13, 27, and 41, as well as of their dependent claims.

Closing

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 486-3585. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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